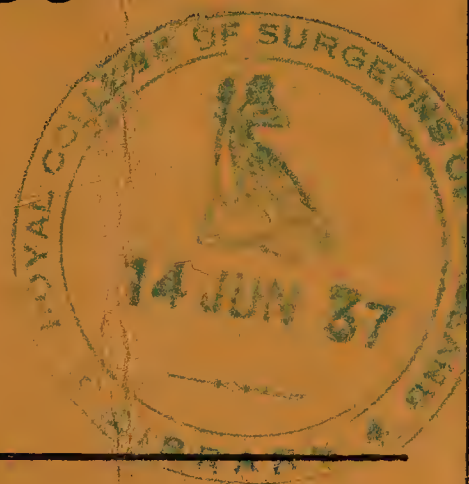


AC 4492(3) STAFFORD



Annual Reports

Of the Medical Officer
of Health and Sanitary
Inspector of the Stafford
Rural District for the
——Year 1936——



STAFFORD:

Printed by R. W. Hourd and Son, 22, Mill Street





Annual Reports

Of the Medical Officer
of Health and Sanitary
Inspector of the Stafford
Rural District for the
——Year 1936——



STAFFORD:

Printed by R. W. Hourd and Son, 22, Mill Street

REPORT

*To the Chairman and Members of the Stafford
Rural District Council.*

EASTGATE,

STAFFORD,

MAY, 1937.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the health of the Stafford Rural District for the year 1936.

The Ministry of Health issues instructions regarding the compiling of Annual Reports, and the following report is based on their requirements, and arranged according to their schedule as far as possible. From April 1st, 1934, the Gnosall Rural District became incorporated in the Stafford Rural District, the area and population thus becoming considerably increased. The population is estimated by the Registrar General to be 13,190.

The Public Health Officers of the Local Authority are :

HERBERT MARSON, M.D., B.S.Durh., L.R.C.P. Lond.,
F.R.C.S.Eng., Medical Officer of Health (whole time).

JAMES W. COOK, M.R.S.I., Certified Meat Inspector,
Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

RICHARD LANGMAID, additional Sanitary Inspector,
(whole time).



Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA	.....	80,960 Acres
POPULATION (as estimated by the Registrar General)		13,190
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1936).....		3,829
RATEABLE VALUE	.....	£50,412
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	.....	£195

The chief occupation of this rural area is Agriculture. A minority of the population are residents whose work takes them into the County Town, where the chief industries are Engineering and Shoe Manufacturing.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total	M.	F.	
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	203	105	98	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 16.
	Illegitimate	8	5	3	
STILLBIRTHS	Legitimate	10	6	4	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 58.
	Illegitimate	3	2	1	
DEATHS		180	88	92	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 13.6

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

Puerperal sepsis	.....	Nil
Other puerperal causes	.....	1
Total	.....	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—Total 12
(Legitimate 10, Illegitimate 2)

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	56.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		49.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		250
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.....	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	25

There were no outstanding causes of sickness or mortality which were especially noteworthy in the area during the year.

A table is appended, shewing the comparative death rates in the district for the past five years :—

1931 Death Rate 12.6	} Per 1,000 of the estimated population.
1932 Death Rate 11.6	
1933 Death Rate 9.2	
1934 Death Rate 11.4	
1935 Death Rate 12.6	

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Nursing in the Home, Clinics and Treatment Centres, Hospitals.

No important developments have occurred, or changes been made during the past year in the services provided in the District under the above heads.

The provision of an Isolation Hospital for the District has been, and is, under consideration. It has not yet been definitely decided whether certain rural districts shall be permitted to erect a hospital common to them all, or whether the erection and management shall be undertaken solely by the County Council.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

Cases of Infectious Diseases continue to be satisfactorily few, the number of Scarlet Fever cases being the same as last year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1936.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Deaths
Small Pox	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	32	Nil
Diphtheria	9	1
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	9	7
Erysipelas	1	Nil

ANTHRAX AND RABIES.—No cases of Anthrax or Rabies in human beings have occurred during the year..

Every case of infectious disease occurring in schools in the district is notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

The practitioners in the district have made full use of the privileges accorded to them of having bacteriological specimens examined by the County Bacteriologist.

All except very exceptional cases of Infectious Disease are removed to the Isolation Hospital. In cases not removed every care is taken to insure that suitable isolation in the patient's own home is provided. In no case in this rural area is Scarlet Fever allowed to be isolated at a home where milk is produced.

A table showing the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and diphtheria during the past five years is appended :—

SCARLET FEVER.

		No. of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of Population		Deaths
1932	.....	13	.....	1.3	..... Nil
1933	.....	13	.....	1.3	..... Nil
1934	.....	18	.....	1.48	..... Nil
1935	.....	32	.....	2.4	..... Nil
1936	.....	32	.....	2.4	..... Nil

DIPHTHERIA.

1932	.....	7	.....	.72	..... Nil
1933	.....	3	.....	.303	..... Nil
1934	.....	5	.....	.41	..... Nil
1935	.....	7	.....	.53	..... 1
1936	.....	9	.....	.68	..... 1

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases notified in 1936.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.	M.	F.
0 								
1 								1
5 			2	1				
15 	1	1				1		
25 		2				1		
35 								
45 	1							
55 						1		
65 and upwards	2		1		1			
Totals ..	4	3	3	1	1	3	—	1

The notification of Tuberculosis in the District is fairly satisfactory. Knowledge of new cases comes partly from notifications, and partly from other sources. Some cases are not discovered until the deaths are notified.

SPECIAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Overcrowding.

When this problem was first investigated, it was found that there were some 45 cases of overcrowding.

By dint of carefully investigating every case, by the removal of lodgers, by inducing the elder members of a family to seek residence elsewhere, by the exchange of residences (i.e., by inducing small families in large houses to exchange with large families in small houses), and by other means, the original number of cases was brought down to 14. This was the irreducible number for which houses would have to be provided, and steps are being taken to build the necessary houses for the overcrowded families.

Scarcity of Houses.

For years I have impressed upon the Council the necessity of providing cottages for Agricultural workers at a rent which is within their power to afford. I hear and see the necessity of providing such cottages more or less throughout the whole District, and this is supported not only by the Agricultural workers themselves, but by Members of the Council.

In practice what happens is this. When the young agricultural worker arrives at a marriageable age, he looks around for a house to enable him to get married. To procure such is a practical impossibility, as they are non-existent.

He turns to the town, as the only solution to his difficulty, where he obtains employment at one of the several large works, with higher wages, and considerably shorter hours, including the freedom from work on Sundays. The corollary to this is obvious.

The result is borne out by the very serious depletion of labour on the land, which exists to such an extent that farmers are finding it impossible to obtain labour to carry on their absolutely necessary work, and there is no question that the depletion of labour on the land is due primarily to the scarcity of houses.

Sewage Disposal at Great Haywood.

This can only be regarded as very unsatisfactory. Recently in investigating an outbreak of Diphtheria in certain cottages, in which one death occurred, I found the sewage ran underneath the living rooms in defective brick sewers. Since then, a further case of Scarlet Fever occurred in an adjoining cottage, where the sewage similarly ran under the living room in glazed pipes.

Still carrying out the inspections, I found the sewage running under the living room of another cottage, where it discharged itself, there being no outlet beyond this.

The main sewers consist of brick cavities. The whole of the sewage from the village is discharged undiluted and untreated directly into the River Trent. Only an extensive survey could reveal all the defects in the village.

The adjoining village of Little Haywood is in a lesser measure similarly situated, the sewage also being discharged in its crude condition directly into the River Trent.

HERBERT MARSON,

M.D., B.S.Durh., L.R.C.P.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER. The Council has engaged a Water Engineer who has submitted a scheme of Public Water Supply to the Minister of Health for approval.

Some 18 samples of the existing wells were bacteriologically and chemically tested by the County Authorities, and some 75 per cent. were certified as being more than two baccillus coli.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE. The Council has engaged an Engineer for the Walton Sewerage Scheme, and he has submitted a scheme to the Minister of Health. Also the Council are considering schemes for the extension of the sewers at Forton and Gnosall.

The drainage generally is to tanks with soakaways, and there are few complaints.

No action has been taken to check the pollution of rivers or streams in this area.

1. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. At Gnosall some 6 conversions from conservancy to the water carriage system were made and 15 conversions from privies to pan closets.

Approximately the figures are 2,416 water closets, 1,096 pans, and 578 privy middens and most of the latter are under notice for conversion to pans.

2. PUBLIC CLEANSING. The Council has undertaken the removal of House Refuse by contract from the following Parishes :—Berkswich, Brocton, Castle Church, Creswell, Colwich, Gnosall, and some 22 houses in the Parishes of Hopton and Seighford.

Refuse is collected on Milford Chase, also regular attention is paid to levelling ashtips and covering at Colwich, Milford, Stowe, Weston and Haughton.

Cesspool cleansing is done by owner or occupier.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

HOUSING.

1.—(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects	1239
Under Public Health or Housing Acts.	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	500
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses included under Sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulation 1925	1239
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	500
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	259
2.—Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notice.	
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers :—	
Houses repaired	71
Houses re-conditioned	54
3.—Action under Statutory powers during the year.	
(a) Proceedings under Section 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	259
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
Houses repaired	71
Houses re-conditioned	54
	<hr/>
	125
(a) By Owners	125
(b) By Local Authority	Nil

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice Nil
- (a) By Owners Nil
- (b) By Local Authority Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Section 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of Separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. The tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil
- (4) Housing Act, 1935, Overcrowding.
- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 14
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 14
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 81 Adults
38 children
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... 1
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... 33
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases Adults 166
Children 53
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it desirable to report (See special report of Medical Officer of Health).

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. Action taken with regard to milk, including inspection of farms and dairies, examination of samples for bacterial content, and for tubercle bacilli and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1923 and 1926.

The total number of dairy farms in the district is 679, with 1,632 cowsheds, and an average number of milch cows 16,500.

During the year some 824 inspections were made, and 350 notices served.

Some 13 new sheds were erected and 44 re-conditioned re window lighting, and floors. Also 12 new cooling places were put up.

The sampling of the milk for bacterial content, and for tubercle bacilli is undertaken by the Stafford County Council.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD. There are nine licensed and one registered slaughter houses in the district.

Ninety-four inspections of slaughter houses were made during the year and the meat was generally of good quality.

The six butchers' shops are regularly inspected, also the vans travelling with meat and provisions, and the premises where food is prepared.

ANTE AND POST MORTEM INSPECTION.

Ante-Inspection	Beasts	.....	.....	.....	.....	42
Post Mortem	„ „	.....	.....	.....	.....	81
Ante-Inspection	Sheep	.....	.....	.....	.....	60
Post Mortem	„ „	.....	.....	.....	.....	102
Ante-Inspection	Pigs	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
Post Mortem	„ „	.....	.....	.....	.....	43
Ante-Inspection		.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Post Mortem	„	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Ante-Inspection		.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Post Mortem	„	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Condemnations :—One entire carcase.						

There is no Meat Marking Scheme in force in the district under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

There was one prosecution under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, and a fine of 50s. imposed.

The 65 small shops are regularly inspected and no special action taken under the Shops Act, 1934. The County Council undertaking same.

(c) ADULTERATION.—Action is undertaken by the Stafford County Council.

(d) The chemical and bacteriological examination of food is also undertaken by the County Council.

Summary of Work.

Houses Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1239
Houses Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	125
Houses Unfit	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Demolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Closed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Re-conditioned (included in 125)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54
Under Notice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	380
New Houses Built	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	84
Bakehouses Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Shops Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47
Butchers' Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
Slaughter Houses Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	94
Knackers' Yard	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
Samples of Water taken	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Farms Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	824
Cowsheds Re-conditioned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
New Shed's Built	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
New Cooling Places with Boiler	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Drainage Defects (Visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	111

JAMES W. COOK, M.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector.



